

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAI-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-10 ACDA-05

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R 140959Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3327

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 00281

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJ: FNLA AND THE PORTUGUESE N SKFTH

1. THE PUBLISHER OF THE LUANDA DAILY A PROVINCIA, RUI FREITAS, RECENTLY TOLD A CONGEN OFFICER THAT FNLA HAS NOT MOVED AGAINST MPLA MILITARILY SOLELY OUT OF FEAR THAT THE PORTUGUESE ARMY WOULD INTERVENE. FREITAS' PERSONAL OPINION - GATHERED, HE SAYS, FROM TALKING WITH PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS- IS THAT THE ARMY WOULD NOT ACT OFFENSIVELY ON ANY GROUP'S BEHALF. HE REPORTS, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CONVINCE FNLA LEADERS OF THIS AND THE CONSEQUENT NEED TO MOVE NOW TO TAKE POWER. HOWEVER HE DOES CLAIM TO BE CLOSE TO SUCCESS IN CONVINCING FNLA TO CREATE "COUNTER-AGITATION FLYING SQUADS" (I.E. GOON SQUADS) TO COUNTER MPLA'S POLITIZATION EFFORTS.

2. FREITAS FEELS THERE IS A DANGER THAT IF THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT RADICALS TRIUMPH IN PORTUGAL, THE PORTUGUESE ARMY HERE WILL BE ORDERED TO DESTROY MPLA'S ENEMIES.

3. BACKGROUND: FREITAS, WHO WENT TO GROUND LAST OCTOBER BEFORE ADM. COUTINHO'S SOLDIERS COULD ARREST HIM, RECENTLY RETURNED
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FROM SOUTH AFRICA AT THE INVITATION AND UNDER THE PROTECTION OF

FNLA. HE SAYS HE IS IN THE PROCESS OF BUYING COMPLETE
CONTROL OF A PROVINCIA, THE MONEY ALMOST CERTAINLY COMING FROM
FNLA. FREITAS APPEARS TO BE THE ANGOLAN WHITE CLOSEST TO
THE FNLA LEADERSHIP AT THE MOMENT.
KILLORAN

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

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